

Slaughter Addresses Hickey Freeman Employees

Today is the Last Day to Bid on Hickey Freeman

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today addressed Hickey-Freeman employees and reiterated her pledge that any new owner of Hickey-Freeman's parent-company Hartmarx should maintain Rochester's Hickey-Freeman factory.

Hickey-Freeman's parent company Hartmarx is in bankruptcy. Today is the last day for any potential bidders interested in acquiring Hickey-Freeman and Hartmarx to make offers in bankruptcy court.

"Hickey-Freeman is a world-renowned brand and the reputation it enjoys as a producer of high quality apparel is a direct result of the tremendously skilled and hardworking Rochester employees who create its products," Slaughter continued. **"For the health of the Hickey-Freeman brand and for the City of Rochester's economic well-being, it makes strong business sense to keep the company's operations in Rochester."**

One equity firm, Emerisque, has already bid \$128.4 million to purchase Hartmarx. Rep. Slaughter has stood along side Hickey Freeman's union workers in supporting Emerisque's bid since the company has pledged to continue to operate Hartmarx as a going concern, preserve the company's "Made in America" status, and work in a mutually agreeable manner with the union to preserve jobs.

BACKGROUND

Rep. Slaughter has a long history of supporting Hickey-Freeman and its employees. Once it became clear that Hartmarx was jeopardy, Rep. Slaughter began working with Wells Fargo, Hartmarx's chief creditor, Hartmarx CEO Homi Patel, and Emerisque officials to avoid liquidation and secure a buyer for Hickey-Freeman that recognizes the company's value and preserves jobs in Rochester.

In April, Rep. Slaughter began putting pressure on Mr. Homi Patel, to ensure that no matter what route Hartmarx goes, Hickey-Freeman's manufacturing operation remains in Rochester.

Recently, Rep. Slaughter joined over 40 of her colleagues, including Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee Barney Frank, to urge Secretary Geithner to put pressure on Wells Fargo to not liquidate Hartmarx. The full letter that was sent to Secretary Geithner can be read [here](#).

Over the past several years Slaughter has successfully enacted tariff relief for the high-quality fabrics required by Hickey-Freeman. This work has been instrumental in ensuring that Hickey-Freeman has adequate supplies and maintains competitive prices, and remains one of the profitable components of Hartmarx.

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